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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,769	12/21/2001	Sandrine Decoster	05725.0993	2464
22852	7590	08/11/2005	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			YU, GINA C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1617	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/018,769

Applicant(s)

DECOSTER ET AL.

Examiner

Gina C. Yu

Art Unit

1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18,20-28 and 30-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18,20-28 and 30-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/23/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 23, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 18, 20-28, and 30-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsumatsu et al. (WO 99/13830) ("Mitsumatsu") in view of Sebag et al. (WO 98/03155) ("Sebag").

Mitsumatsu teaches shampoo formulations comprising trizole, an optical brightener, and either stearyl alcohol or behenyl alcohol. See Examples 3-5. Detergent surfactants such as ammonium lauryl sulfate and cocamidopropylbetaine are used within the claimed amount. See instant claims 37-39. Conditioning agents such as silicone emulsion are used. See instant claims 40-44. See p. 45, lines 9 – 14 for the method of use. See instant claims 49-51.

While the example formulations do not concurrently use stearyl alcohol and behenyl alcohol within a same composition as recited in the instant claims, the

Mitsumatsu patent suggests using cetyl alcohol, stearyl, behenyl alcohol, and mixtures thereof. See p. 24, lines 16 – 20. These compounds, collectively named as “high melting point compounds” in the reference, are said to cover the hair surface and reduce friction, providing smooth feel and easy combing. See p. 23, line 31 – p. 24, line 15. The Example formulation 4 and 5 shows concurrent use of cetyl alcohol and stearyl alcohol in the ratio of 1:1 and 1:2, which renders the use of stearyl alcohol and behenyl alcohol within the claimed range obvious. See instant claims 32 – 34.

For instant claims 26-31, while the Mitsumatsu Examples do not show the recited weight range of the fatty alcohols, examiner notes that generally, differences in concentration will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration is critical. See MPEP § 2144.05. Since the general conditions of the instant claims are disclosed in Mitsumatsu, examiner views that one having ordinary skill in the art would have discovered the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. Raising the concentration of an active component to enhance the effect of the “high melting point compounds” would have been obvious to the routineer.

Mitsumatsu, discussed above, fails to teach the opacifier/pearlescent recited in claims 19-25.

Sebag teaches hair washing and conditioning compositions comprising a dialkyl ether of formula (II) in instant claim 22, and preferably distearyl ether. See English equivalent of Sebag, US 6162423, col. 2, lines 26 – 53; col. 1, lines 4- 66. The reference teaches that the use of at least one fatty dialkyl ether used in the instant

invention renders a washing foaming compositions having insoluble silicones and surfactants, pearlescent effect, good homogeneity, and improved stability while maintaining foaming power. See Example 1, which comprises 4 % by weight of stearyl ether and 1 % by weight of cetylstearyl alcohol.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the shampoo compositions comprising silicone emulsion in Mitsumatsu by adding distearyl ether in the composition as motivated by Sebag, because the latter teaches that the compound renders insoluble silicone and detergent-containing foam compositions pearlescent effect, good homogeneity, and improved stability while maintaining foaming effect. The skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of successfully producing silicone-containing shampoo compositions with pearlescent effect, good homogeneity with improved stability and foams.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed February 4, 2004 have been fully considered and are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gina C. Yu whose telephone number is 571-272-8605.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone

Art Unit: 1617

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gina Yu
Patent Examiner


SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER